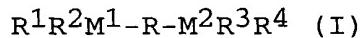


A B S T R A C T

PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PRIMARY ALCOHOLS

5 A process for producing primary alcohols from
secondary alcohols and/or tertiary alcohols and/or
ketones, wherein the process comprises reacting a
compound selected from a secondary alcohol, a tertiary
alcohol, a ketone, or mixtures thereof, with carbon
monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst based
10 on:

- (i) a source of Group VIII metal,
(ii) a bidentate ligand having the general formula (I):



15 wherein M^1 and M^2 are independently P, As or Sb;
 R^1 and R^2 together represent a bivalent substituted or
unsubstituted cyclic aliphatic group whereby the two free
valencies are linked to M^1 ; R^3 and R^4 independently
represent a substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl
group, or together represent a bivalent or non-
20 substituted cyclic group whereby the two free valencies
are linked to M^2 ; and
 R represents a bivalent aliphatic bridging group; and
(iii) an acid having a pK_a of 3 or less which is in
excess over the Group VIII metal.